



## Celebrating Juneteenth in Cheverly MD

Proclamation to facilitate the Juneteenth Celebration and observance of the African American pursuit of freedom throughout America. This will bring the Cheverly Community together to celebrate our common bond of freedom. This has been an African American annual celebration tradition since June 19, 1866.

WHEREAS, Our country is made up of people from every nation on earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for a healthy human civilization; and

WHEREAS, Our nation was conceived on July 4th, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence, the classic statement being: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”; and

WHEREAS, It was on September 22, 1862, the **Emancipation Proclamation** was issued that by Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, proclaiming New Year’s Day, January 1, 1863, that all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation led the way to total abolition of slavery in the United States. With the Emancipation Proclamation, the aim of the war changed to include freeing slaves in addition to preserving the Union. Although the Proclamation initially freed only the slaves in the rebellious states, by the end of the Civil War the Proclamation had influenced and prepared citizens to advocate and accept abolition for all slaves in both the North and South; and

WHEREAS, Texas was the last Confederate territory reached by the Union Army. On June 18, 1865, almost 2 1/2 years later, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas with 1800 troops. On June 19, 1865 he issued general Order Number 3 announcing the end of both the Civil War and slavery: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere”; and



WHEREAS, Texans began the celebration of Juneteenth in 1866, with community events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances, and historical cultural readings; some communities purchased land for Juneteenth celebrations, such as Emancipation Park in Houston, TX; and as freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them; and

WHEREAS, Al Edwards, a freshman state representative, put forward the bill, H.B. 1016, in 1979 making Texas the first state to grant this emancipation celebration; and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday. Since then, 49 other states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation recognizing Juneteenth as either a state holiday or day of observance; and

WHEREAS, Too often African American history has gone unrecognized, not discussed, and covered up.; and

WHEREAS, The Cheverly African American Community Organization (CAACO), is honored to present to the residents of Cheverly and the surrounding communities, relevant African American History and the importance of the observance and recognition of Juneteenth. The historical legacy of Juneteenth illustrates the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Cheverly Mayor and Council, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2021 as Juneteenth Celebration Day in the Town of Cheverly, and to be celebrated and commemorated with the raising of the Juneteenth flag at Cheverly Town Hall.